DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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__FEDERAL __STATE X_COUNTY XLOCAL

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

DATE ENTERED SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS 1 NAME HISTORIC Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church AND/OR COMMON First Lutheran Church LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 701 North Pennsylvania Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Indianapolis 11th VICINITY OF STATE CODE COUNTY CODE 018 Indiana Marion 097 **3 CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP** STATUS **PRESENT USE** _DISTRICT XOCCUPIED PUBLIC _AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM X PRIVATE _XBUILDING(S) _UNOCCUPIED __COMMERCIAL __PARK __STRUCTURE _вотн __WORK IN PROGRESS __EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENC __SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE** __ENTERTAINMENT X RELIGIOUS __OBJECT __IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED __GOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFIC __BEING CONSIDERED XYES: UNRESTRICTED __INDUSTRIAL __TRANSPORTATION __NO __MILITARY _OTHER: **MOWNER OF PROPERTY** NAME First Lutheran Church Congregation (Trustees) STREET & NUMBER 701 North Pennsylvania Street CITY, TOWN STATE Indianapolis Indiana 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Marion County Recorder's Office STREET & NUMBER 200 East Washington Street CITY, TOWN STATE Indianapolis Indiana **6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE Survey of Indianapolis-Marion County DATE 1977

Indianapolis Preservation Commission



CONDITION

__EXCELLENT __DETERIORATED
__YGOOD __RUINS
__FAIR __UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

__UNALTERED X_ALTERED **CHECK ONE**

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mt. Pisgah Lutheran (now First Lutheran) Church is located in downtown Indianapolis at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Walnut Streets.

The existing rectangular brick structure was constructed in two sections. The original section was erected in 1875 and is now the rear (east) portion of the structure. This first portion was constructed as a chapel and is used as such today, although the congregation used it as their house of worship until the sanctuary was completed in 1886. Both sections rest on a raised foundation of limestone blocks. The original section has Gothic Revival features such as a high gabled slate roof and windows which are long and narrow with pointed Gothic arches; the windows are dressed with limestone trim. There are brick turret buttresses at the corners. A cross rests at the gable peak on top of a decorated cornice. The original entrance was through the double doors in the south facade. The transom above the entrance contains the letters, "Luther Chapel".

The sanctuary was started in 1885 and completed in 1886 on the limestone foundation laid in 1875. This section suggests a Romanesque Revival style of architecture. The four windows along each side of the nave have round arches and are set in recessed round-arched panels. The panels are divided by brick buttresses with limestone caps. The west elevation has a rose window above a large stained glass, round-arched window. This facade has two double door entrances with stained glass transoms. A gable roof over the south entrance is supported by brackets.

There is a stone cross on the gable peak at the west facade. The slate roof stops short on the sides at the west end to reveal round-arched vents supporting the roof over the nave; originally this may have been intended for bells. The north and south sides have brick bracketed corbel tables.

There have been few alterations to the church since 1886. In 1898 a pipe organ was installed behind the altar on a raised platform. The second major set of alterations occurred in 1915. An entrance to the basement was cut in the south side of the building next to the original entrance to the chapel. Plain glass windows along the sides of the sanctuary were replaced with stained glass, and the large window in the west elevation was replaced with stained glass portraying the Good Shepard. A false ceiling was also installed in the sanctuary to aid the acoustics and heating, and gas lights were replaced with electric fixtures. Restrooms, a new heating system, and a second floor in the Chapel were installed. A complete basement was excavated, and a poured concrete floor was added.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

1							
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW						
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING .	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION			
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE			
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE			
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN			
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER			
X_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY-	TRANSPORTATION			
- 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)			
		INVENTION	* -				
SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1875, 1886	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Peter P. Cook	cingham			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

First Lutheran Church of Indianapolis is significant primarily for architectural reasons. The two sections of the building represent Gothic and Romanesque Revival styles of architecture. The pointed-arched windows, gable ends, and corner buttresses indicate the Gothic Revival influence in the chapel. The round-arched windows, recessed panels, arched transoms, and corbel table reveal the Romanesque design used in the main sanctuary. The First Lutheran Church is especially notable in that it combines in one building the two architectural styles which late nineteenth century Americans most often associated with religious structures.

Peter P. Cookingham was the architect for the 1875 chapel, and he may have also drawn up plans at that time for the future sanctuary. Little is known about Cookingham other than the fact that he was practicing in Indianapolis in 1875; he was evidently not in the city in 1885-86 when the sanctuary was constructed.

The First Lutheran Church is also notable locally as the oldest Lutheran congregation in the area. Organized in 1837 as the Mount Pisgâh Lutheran Church, the congregation has led to the organization of five area churches over the years (Zion United Church of Christ, 1841; Pleasant View Lutheran, 1844; Gethsemane Lutheran, 1921; Bethlehem Lutheran, 1923; and First Latvian Lutheran, 1947). In 1920 the convention to organize the Indiana Synod was held at First Lutheran; and the first Indiana-Kentucky Synod Office was located in the church.

The Church has been continually involved in the life of the surrounding neighborhood, meeting social and spiritual needs of the residents. The Indianapolis Near East Side Community Organization (NESCO) was organized in the building in 1970.

9 MAIC	R BIBLIC	GRAPHIC	AL REFE	RENCES
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KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

History of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod edited by Henry G. Waltman, published 1971. Greater Indianapolis compiled by Jacob P. Dunn, Secretary, Indiana Historical Society, published 1910. Railroad City edited by W. R. Holloway, published 1870 Memoirs of Indianapolis and Marion County, published 1893 Archives of First Lutheran Church, 1837-1891 **10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** less than one acre ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY QUADRANGLE NAME Indianapolis west QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000 UTM REFERENCES [5]7,2]3,2,0] A11,61 14,410,311,3,0 ZONE VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES CODE STATE CODE COUNTY CODE COUNTY CODE STATE IT FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Mrs. Kate Roper and Mrs. Elsa Dierks ORGANIZATION First Lutheran Church STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE 634-9502 701 North Pennsylvania Street CITY OR TOWN STATE Indiana Indianapolis STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: LOCAL STATE_ NATIONAL ___ As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE DATE TITLE Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE

DATE

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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Indianapolis Star, December 3, 1922, May 16, 1937, November 2, 1975, May 15, 1977.



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